

**ALABAMA ETHICS COMMISSION
MINUTES**

June 8, 2022

9:30 a.m.

**9th Floor, RSA Union Building
Montgomery, Alabama**

The Alabama Ethics Commission met on June 8, 2022, at 9:30 a.m. in the Public Service Commission Hearing Room on the 9th Floor of the RSA Union Building.

Commission Members Present:

Honorable John Plunk, Chair
Honorable Lyn Stuart, Ret. Chief Justice, Vice-Chair
Honorable BG (R) Edward Crowell (USAF), Member

Commission Members Absent:

Honorable Stanton H. McDonald, Member

Commission Staff Present:

Thomas B. Albritton, Executive Director
Cynthia Raulston, Special Assistant to the Director
Dustin Lansford, Senior Special Agent
Chris McCay, Special Agent
Brian Baker, Special Agent
Byron Butler, Senior Special Agent
April Innes, Special Investigator
Austin Gilmore, Administrative Support Assistant I

Other:

Victoria Costello, Court Reporter – Huseby

Mr. Plunk called the meeting to order at 9:37 a.m. and introduced Pastor Mark Osgood, Perry Hill United Methodist Church, Montgomery, Alabama, who gave the invocation.

Old Business:

Approval of the minutes from the April 6, 2022, meeting:

Chief Justice Stuart moved to adopt the minutes as written. General Crowell seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with all those present voting.

New Business:

FCPA Appeals

Ricky D. Harcrow

Ms. Raulston explained the request for the Civil Penalty Appeal. Hugh Evans, III, General Counsel, Alabama Secretary of State was present to speak and answer any questions. *Chief Justice Stuart moved*

to set aside the February 23, 2022, penalty and offense. General Crowell seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with all those present voting.

Robert Payne Henderson

Ms. Raulston explained the request for the Civil Penalty Appeal. Hugh Evans, III, General Counsel, Alabama Secretary of State was present to speak and answer any questions. *General Crowell moved to set aside the February 23, 2022, penalty and offense. Chief Justice Stuart seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with all those present voting.*

Rodney Lucas

Ms. Raulston explained the request for the Civil Penalty Appeal. Hugh Evans, III, General Counsel, Alabama Secretary of State was present to speak and answer any questions. *Chief Justice Stuart moved to set aside the March 8, 2022, penalty and offense. General Crowell seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with all those present voting.*

Steve Sawyer

Ms. Raulston explained the request for Steve Sawyer's appeal to be continued.

Robert Lew Burdette

Ms. Raulston explained the request for the Civil Penalty Appeal. Hugh Evans, III, General Counsel, Alabama Secretary of State was present to speak and answer any questions. *General Crowell moved to set aside the three penalties and offenses that were imposed on March 7 and May 18, 2022. Chief Justice Stuart seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with all those present voting.*

Kenneth Lynn Bailey

Ms. Raulston explained the request for the Civil Penalty Appeal. Hugh Evans, III, General Counsel, Alabama Secretary of State was present to speak and answer any questions. *Chief Justice Stuart moved to set aside the two penalties and offenses that were imposed on March 10, 2022. General Crowell seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with all those present voting.*

Nina Renee Taylor

Ms. Raulston explained the request for the Civil Penalty Appeal. Nina Renee Taylor spoke on her own behalf. Hugh Evans, III, General Counsel, Alabama Secretary of State was present to speak and answer any questions. *General Crowell moved to set aside the two penalties and offenses that were imposed on March 21, 2022. Chief Justice Stuart seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with all those present voting.*

Jody Lynn Tallie

Ms. Raulston explained the request for the Civil Penalty Appeal. Jody Lynn Tallie spoke on her own behalf. Hugh Evans, III, General Counsel, Alabama Secretary of State was present to speak and answer any questions. *Chief Justice Stuart moved to set aside the three penalties and offenses that were imposed on March 17 and May 10, 2022. General Crowell seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with all those present voting.*

Steve Small, Jr.

Ms. Raulston explained the request for the Civil Penalty Appeal. Jason Jones spoke on behalf of Steve Small, Jr. Hugh Evans, III, General Counsel, Alabama Secretary of State was present to speak and answer any questions. *General Crowell moved to set aside the four penalties and offenses that were imposed on May 23 and April 6, 2022. Chief Justice Stuart seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with all those present voting.*

Christopher Deen Nelson

Ms. Raulston explained the request for the Civil Penalty Appeal. Hugh Evans, III, General Counsel, Alabama Secretary of State was present to speak and answer any questions. *Chief Justice Stuart moved to set aside the February 7, 2022, penalty and offense. General Crowell seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with all those present voting.*

Mona Lisa Murray

Ms. Raulston explained the request for the Civil Penalty Appeal. Hugh Evans, III, General Counsel, Alabama Secretary of State was present to speak and answer any questions. *General Crowell moved to set aside the April 1, 2022, penalty and offense. Chief Justice Stuart seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with all those present voting.*

Charlotte Borden Meadows

Ms. Raulston explained the request for the Civil Penalty Appeal. Charlotte Borden Meadows spoke on her own behalf. Hugh Evans, III, General Counsel, Alabama Secretary of State was present to speak and answer any questions. *Chief Justice Stuart moved to set aside the April 5, 2022, penalty and offense. General Crowell seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with all those present voting.*

Brian S. Christine

Ms. Raulston explained the request for the Civil Penalty Appeal. Steve McClinton spoke on behalf of Brian S. Christine. Hugh Evans, III, General Counsel, Alabama Secretary of State was present to speak and answer any questions. *General Crowell moved to set aside the four penalties and offenses that were imposed on April 14, 2022. Chief Justice Stuart seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with all those present voting.*

Ashley Nicole Bell

Ms. Raulston explained the request for Ashley Nicole Bell's appeal to be continued.

John Raymond Forbus, Jr.

Ms. Raulston explained the request for the Civil Penalty Appeal. John Raymond Forbus, Jr. spoke on his own behalf. Hugh Evans, III, General Counsel, Alabama Secretary of State was present to speak and answer any questions. *Chief Justice Stuart moved to set aside the April 19, 2022, penalty and offense. General Crowell seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with all those present voting.*

Prosperity PAC

Ms. Raulston explained the request for the Civil Penalty Appeal. Hugh Evans, III, General Counsel, Alabama Secretary of State was present to speak and answer any questions. *General Crowell moved to*

set aside the May 9, 2022, penalty and offense. Chief Justice Stuart seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with all those present voting.

Alabama Engineers PAC

Ms. Raulston explained the request for the Civil Penalty Appeal. Hugh Evans, III, General Counsel, Alabama Secretary of State was present to speak and answer any questions. *Chief Justice Stuart moved to set aside the three penalties and uphold the offenses that were imposed on May 2, May 5, and May 11, 2022. General Crowell seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with all those present voting.*

Eric Ellis Johnson

Ms. Raulston explained the request for the Civil Penalty Appeal. Hugh Evans, III, General Counsel, Alabama Secretary of State was present to speak and answer any questions. *General Crowell moved to set aside the May 5, 2022, penalty and offense. Chief Justice Stuart seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with all those present voting.*

Alabama Students For Life Action PAC

Ms. Raulston explained the request for Alabama Students For Life Action PAC's appeal to be continued.

Kevin Dunn

Ms. Raulston explained the request for the Civil Penalty Appeal. Hugh Evans, III, General Counsel, Alabama Secretary of State was present to speak and answer any questions. *Chief Justice Stuart moved to set aside the May 17, 2022, penalty and offense. General Crowell seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with all those present voting.*

Reginald Pulliam

Ms. Raulston explained the request for the Civil Penalty Appeal. Hugh Evans, III, General Counsel, Alabama Secretary of State was present to speak and answer any questions. *General Crowell moved to set aside the May 16, 2022, penalty and offense. Chief Justice Stuart seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with all those present voting.*

At 10:30 a.m. General Crowell moved that the Commission go into Executive Session. Chief Justice Stuart seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with all those present voting.

At 1:18 p.m. Chief Justice Stuart moved that the Commission go back into Open Session. General Crowell seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with all those present voting.

Case No. 2021-0120

Jacquelyn Robertson, City Manager, City of Lipscomb

Chief Justice Stuart moved that based on the evidence as presented to this Commission, there exists cause to hold that Jacquelyn Robertson has violated the Alabama Ethics Law, and further moved that this case be referred for review and appropriate legal action to the District Attorney of the appropriate Judicial Circuit. General Crowell seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0 with all those present voting.

Case No. 2021-0275

Melissa Williams, Town Clerk, Town of Wilton

General Crowell moved that based on the evidence as presented to this Commission, there exists cause to hold that Melissa Williams has committed one (1) minor violation of the Alabama Ethics Act, and further moved that this case be handled administratively and referred for review and appropriate legal action to the District Attorney of the appropriate Judicial Circuit. Chief Justice Stuart seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0 with all those present voting.

Case No. 2021-0408

Keiona Rogers, Former Social Worker, Montgomery County Department of Human Resources
Chief Justice Stuart moved that based on the evidence as presented to this Commission, there exists cause to hold that Keiona Rogers has committed one (1) minor violation of the Alabama Ethics Act, and further moved that this case be handled administratively and referred for review and appropriate legal action to the District Attorney of the appropriate Judicial Circuit. General Crowell seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0 with all those present voting.

Case No. 2021-0232

Ezekiel Walters, Former Assistant Football Coach, Brewer High School

Chief Justice Stuart moved that based on the evidence as presented to this Commission, there exists insufficient facts to hold that Ezekiel Walters, has violated the Alabama Ethics Act. He further moved that this case be closed. General Crowell seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0 with all those present voting.

Case No. 2021-0247

Roderick Clark, Mayor, City of Union Springs

Chief Justice Stuart moved that based on the evidence as presented to this Commission, there exists insufficient facts to hold that Roderick Clark, has violated the Alabama Ethics Act. He further moved that this case be closed. General Crowell seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0 with all those present voting.

Case No. 2021-0262

Marlos Walker, Police Chief, City of Ozark

Chief Justice Stuart moved that based on the evidence as presented to this Commission, there exists cause to hold that Marlos Walker has committed one (1) minor violation of the Alabama Ethics Act, and further moved that this case be handled administratively and referred for review and appropriate legal action to the District Attorney of the appropriate Judicial Circuit. General Crowell seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0 with all those present voting.

Case No. 2021-0334

Donnis Leeth, Former Mayor, Town of Colony

General Crowell moved that based on the evidence as presented to this Commission, there exists cause to hold that Donnis Leeth has committed one (1) minor violation of the Alabama Ethics Act, and further moved that this case be handled administratively and referred for review and appropriate

legal action to the District Attorney of the appropriate Judicial Circuit. Chief Justice Stuart seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0 with all those present voting.

Case No. 2022-0064

Robert Kulick, Coordinator, Student Services, Aerospace Engineering – Auburn University
Chief Justice Stuart moved that based on the evidence as presented to this Commission, there exists cause to hold that Robert Kulick has committed one (1) minor violation of the Alabama Ethics Act, and further moved that this case be handled administratively and referred for review and appropriate legal action to the District Attorney of the appropriate Judicial Circuit. General Crowell seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0 with all those present voting.

Case No. 2022-0064

David Cline, Associate Professor, Auburn University
Chief Justice Stuart moved that based on the evidence as presented to this Commission, there exists cause to hold that David Cline has committed (a) minor violation of the Alabama Ethics Act, and further moved that this case be handled administratively and referred for review and appropriate legal action to the District Attorney of the appropriate Judicial Circuit. General Crowell seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0 with all those present voting.

Cases Recommended for Dismissal

The following cases were presented to the Commission by Executive Director Albritton, with the recommendation that they be dismissed: Case No. 2021-0225; Case No. 2021-0244; Case No. 2021-0276; Case No. 2021-0312; Case No. 2021-0333; Case No. 2021-0335; Case No. 2021-0336; Case No. 2021-0396; Case No. 2021-0412; Case No. 2022-0021; Case No. 2022-0025; Case No. 2022-0080; Case No. 2022-0091; Case No. 2022-0101; Case No. 2022-0115; Case No. 2022-0130 and Case No. 2022-0134. *General Crowell moved that the Commission dismiss the cases as recommended. Chief Justice Stuart seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0 with all those present voting.*

Case No. 2021-0186

Stephanie Braly-Beutjer, Teacher, Huntsville Board of Education
General Crowell moved that on April 6, 2022, the Alabama Ethics Commission unanimously found Stephanie Braly-Beutjer, Teacher, Huntsville Board of Education, had committed one (1) minor violation of the Alabama Ethics Act and approved an administrative resolution at the request of the Respondent. The Commission forwarded the case to the District Attorney of the 23rd Judicial Circuit who approved the administrative resolution on April 29, 2022. Accordingly, I hereby move as follows: 1) An administrative penalty in the amount of \$250.00 be ordered by the Commission to be paid to the Ethics Commission by cashier's check, money order, or online payment on or before July 27, 2022; 2) There is no restitution owing for this minor violation. Chief Justice Stuart seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0 with all those present voting.

Case No. 2021-0304

Patsy Bowen, Court Clerk, City of Monroeville

Chief Justice Stuart moved that on April 6, 2022, the Alabama Ethics Commission unanimously found Patsy Bowen, Court Clerk, City of Monroeville, had committed one (1) minor violation of the Alabama Ethics Act and approved an administrative resolution at the request of the Respondent. The Commission forwarded the case to the District Attorney of the 35th Judicial Circuit who approved the administrative resolution on April 28, 2022. Accordingly, I hereby move as follows: 1) An administrative penalty in the amount of \$50.00 be ordered by the Commission to be paid to the Ethics Commission by cashier's check, money order, or online payment on or before July 27, 2022; 2) There is no restitution owing for this minor violation. General Crowell seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0 with all those present voting.

Case No. 2021-0366

Evelyn Bliss, Teacher, Gadsden Middle School

General Crowell moved that on April 6, 2022, the Alabama Ethics Commission unanimously found Evelyn Bliss, Teacher, Gadsden Middle School, had committed one (1) minor violation of the Alabama Ethics Act and approved an administrative resolution at the request of the Respondent. The Commission forwarded the case to the District Attorney of the 16th Judicial Circuit who approved the administrative resolution on April 26, 2022. Accordingly, I hereby move as follows: 1) An administrative penalty in the amount of \$250.00 be ordered by the Commission to be paid to the Ethics Commission by cashier's check, money order, or online payment on or before July 27, 2022; 2) There is no restitution owing for this minor violation. Chief Justice Stuart seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0 with all those present voting.

Case Nos 2021-0415 & 2022-0006

Tamara Hand, Principal, Verbena High School

Chief Justice Stuart moved that on April 6, 2022, the Alabama Ethics Commission unanimously found Tamara Hand, Principal, Verbena High School, had committed two (2) minor violation of the Alabama Ethics Act and approved an administrative resolution at the request of the Respondent. The Commission forwarded the case to the District Attorney of the 19th Judicial Circuit who approved the administrative resolution on May 11, 2022. Accordingly, I hereby move as follows: 1) An administrative penalty in the amount of \$250.00 be ordered by the Commission to be paid to the Ethics Commission by cashier's check, money order, or online payment on or before July 27, 2022; 2) There is no restitution owing for this minor violation. General Crowell seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0 with all those present voting.

Other

Case No. 2018-0153

Rachel Anderson, Former Executive Secretary, Alabama Board of Dental Scholarships

General Crowell moved that on April 3, 2019, the Alabama Ethics Commission unanimously found Rachel Anderson, Former Executive Secretary, Alabama Board of Dental Scholarships, had committed one (1) minor violation of the Alabama Ethics Act and approved an administrative

resolution at the request of the Respondent. The Commission forwarded the case to the District Attorney of the 10th Judicial Circuit, Danny Carr, who approved the administrative resolution on April 15, 2019. Accordingly, I hereby move as follows: 1) An administrative penalty in the amount of \$25.00 be ordered by the Commission which was paid to the Ethics Commission on March 2, 2022; 2) Restitution in the amount of \$1,666.00 be ordered to be paid to the Ethics Commission and disbursed to Alabama Board of Dental Scholarships thereafter. As of April 1, 2022, \$1,375.00 has been applied to the restitution amount imposed by the Ethics Commission leaving a balance due of \$291.00. Chief Justice Stuart seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0 with all those present voting.

Case No. 2018-0395

Ashley Ingram, Former Administrative Assistant II, Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

Chief Justice Stuart moved that on August 5, 2020, the Alabama Ethics Commission unanimously found Ashley Ingram, Former Administrative Assistant II, Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, had committed one (1) minor violation of the Alabama Ethics Act and approved an administrative resolution at the request of the Respondent. The Commission forwarded the case to the District Attorney of the 6th Judicial Circuit, Hays Webb, who approved the administrative resolution on or before September 17, 2020. Accordingly, I hereby move as follows: 1) An administrative penalty in the amount of \$50.00 be ordered by the Commission which was paid to the Ethics Commission on October 18, 2020; 2) Restitution in the amount of \$100.00 which was paid on June 15, 2020, be ordered to be paid to the Ethics Commission and disbursed to Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources thereafter. General Crowell seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0 with all those present voting.

Case No. 2018-0550

April Grissom, Recycling Center Office Manager, Shoals Solid Waste Authority

General Crowell moved that on December 4, 2019, the Alabama Ethics Commission unanimously found April Grissom, Recycling Center Office Manager, Shoals Solid Waste Authority, had committed one (1) minor violation of the Alabama Ethics Act and approved an administrative resolution at the request of the Respondent. The Commission forwarded the case to the District Attorney of the 31st Judicial Circuit who approved the administrative resolution on or before November 4, 2019. Accordingly, I hereby move as follows: 1) An administrative penalty in the amount of \$25.00 be ordered by the Commission and was paid to the Ethics Commission on December 16, 2019; 2) Restitution in the amount of \$300.00 which was paid on September 27, 2019, be ordered to be paid to the Ethics Commission and disbursed to Shoals Solid Waste Authority thereafter. Chief Justice Stuart seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0 with all those present voting.

Case No. 2019-0252

Thomas Howard, Chairman, East Lauderdale Water & Fire Protection Authority

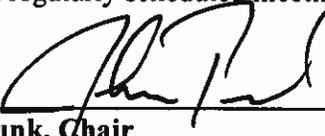
Chief Justice Stuart moved that on June 4, 2020, the Alabama Ethics Commission unanimously found Thomas Howard, Chairman, East Lauderdale Water & Fire Protection Authority, had committed one (1) minor violation of the Alabama Ethics Act and approved an administrative resolution at the request of the Respondent. The Commission forwarded the case to the District Attorney of the 11th Judicial Circuit, Christopher Connolly, who approved the administrative

resolution on August 31, 2020. Accordingly, I hereby move as follows: 1) An administrative penalty in the amount of \$1,000.00 be ordered by the Commission which was paid to the Ethics Commission on October 20, 2020; 2) Restitution in the amount of \$955.00 which was paid on May 28, 2020, be ordered to be paid to the Ethics Commission and disbursed to East Lauderdale Water & Fire Protection Authority thereafter. General Crowell seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0 with all those present voting.

Adjournment

There being no further business at 1:41 p.m., Chief Justice Stuart moved that the meeting be adjourned, and General Crowell seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with all those present voting.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Commission is August 2, 2022.



John Plunk, Chair



Thomas B. Albritton, Executive Director



Byron Butler, Recording Secretary